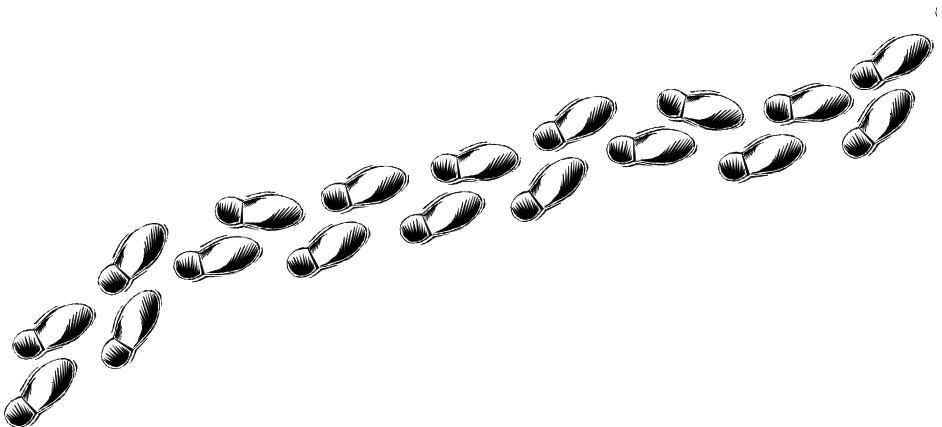


Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest

TRAIL GUIDE



Welcome!

Established in 1925 to protect the streamflow at the headwaters of the Wisconsin, Flambeau, and Manitowish Rivers, the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest occupies more than 226,000 acres in parts of Vilas, Oneida and Iron Counties. More than two million visitors come to the state forest each year to hunt, fish, camp, bike, hike, ski, ice fish and go snowmobiling.

There are eighteen family campgrounds and approximately 900 campsites in the forest, and two outdoor group camping areas that will accommodate a total of 100. Boat landings are provided at most campgrounds. Sites in five of the family campgrounds, Crystal Lake, Muskie Lake, Clear Lake, Firefly Lake, and Indian Mounds, plus the two group campgrounds can be reserved. There are also five wilderness camping areas with a total of thirteen campsites for which reservations can be made. Over a hundred canoe campsites are located along the many miles of waterways in the forest, with access by water only. Winter camping is permitted at the Clear Lake campground. Backpack camping using existing snowmobile trails is allowed on the forest, this requires a special permit.

The forest has four picnic areas with drinking water and vault toilets. The Crystal Lake, Clear Lake, Indian Mounds and Little Star Picnic Areas also have swimming beaches. There are four nature trails ranging in length from one and one-half to two and one-half miles. There are other hiking trails, including the 12.5 mile-long Lumberjack Trail.

The NH-AL has a full-time Naturalist. During the summer, day and evening programs are presented at the Crystal Lake Nature Center and Clear Lake Campgrounds. Visitors are asked to check posters in the campground and other forest facilities for details. Guided hikes are conducted by the Naturalist several times a week.

The forest lends itself to many winter activities. Hunting, subject to certain regulations, is permitted. Cross-country skiers will find more than 40 miles of groomed and marked trails and another 30 miles of winter use trails. The forest keeps three trail parking lots plowed especially for snowshoers. The forest offers snowmobilers nearly 400 miles of trails that connect with an extensive network of county and local club trails.

A wide variety of wildlife inhabits the forest, including endangered, threatened, and sensitive species. Some, such as the spotted salamander, wood turtle, and Cooper's hawk are quite rare and inconspicuous. Others such as the bald eagle, osprey and common loon can be seen frequently throughout the forest.

Because the NH-AL is so expansive, it surrounds a number of communities where a wide variety of services and accommodations are available.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters
4125 CTY HWY M
Boulder Junction WI 54512
715-385-2704 or 715-385-2727

Woodruff Service Center
8770 CTY HWY J
Woodruff WI 54568
715-356-5211

Crystal Lake Contact Station (Memorial Day - Labor Day)
715-542-3923

Clear Lake Contact Station (Memorial Day - Labor Day)

INTERPRETIVE NATURE TRAILS

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest offers four nature/interpretive trails for visitors to explore. Three of the four nature trails have interpretive signs along the trail routes designed to teach a little about our State Forests history, forest wildlife and plants, and the cultural history of the area. One nature trail, the Fallison Lake Nature Trail, has a series of three trail guides that highlight wildlife, plants and cultural history. The state forest Naturalist offers guided hikes on these trails most often in the spring and summer, but also in fall and winter.

HIKING



Hiking is a good way to get close to nature and understand your natural environment a little better. In addition to our four nature trails, the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest has seven other trails designated for hiking. There are also hundreds of miles of old logging roads, less traveled town roads, forest access roads and snowmobile trails that offer good hiking.

BIKING



Except for the Nature Trails (Fallison, Trout Lake, Star Lake & Raven's yellow loop), biking is allowed on all other roads and trails. This amounts to hundreds of miles of biking opportunities.

Designated Mountain Bike Trails (McNaughton, Madeline and Lumberjack) require a Wisconsin State Trail Pass, which can be purchased by self-registering at the trailhead.

There are two trails on or near the forest that have surfaces good for all bicycles. The Bearskin State Trail has trailheads in Minocqua and on Hwy K near Hwy 51. Also, the town of Boulder Junction maintains a paved bike trail that runs from the Crystal Lake Campground to Boulder Junction.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING



The Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest has four beautifully tracked and wonderfully scenic cross-country ski trails: Escanaba, Madeline, McNaughton and Raven. Wisconsin State Trail Passes are required for these trails. Because they are tracked, snowshoers, hikers and pets are not allowed on these trails in winter.

There are also two winter use trails that are great for skiing, the Lumberjack and Powell trails. These trails are not groomed, but because they are popular, someone else may have broken the trail for you.

SNOWSHOEING



In addition to our winter use trails (Lumberjack and Powell), the parking lots at Fallison, North Trout, and Star Lake Nature Trails are kept plowed to provide ample opportunities for snowshoeing.

For those of you who don't require a trail to snowshoe, the possibilities are never ending.

Please remember that snowshoes are not allowed on groomed and tracked ski trails.

SNOWMOBILING

Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest has nearly 400 miles of marked snowmobile trails that connect with an extensive network of county and local ski club trails. These trails are all maintained and groomed by local snowmobile clubs.

CANOE ROUTES

Enjoy the lakes and streams of the Northwoods. There is seemingly endless water, thanks to past glacial action which left big lakes, small lakes, rivers and streams.

There are two trails on or near the forest that have surfaces good for all bicycles. The Bearskin State Trail has trailheads in Minocqua and on Hwy K near Hwy 51. Also, the town of Boulder Junction maintains a paved bike trail that runs from the Crystal Lake Campground to Boulder Junction.

ATV'S

All Terrain Vehicles are not allowed anywhere on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest.

TRAIL FEES

In the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest a Wisconsin State Trail Pass is required for *each person* 16 or over who is cross-country skiing on one of our groomed trails or mountain biking on one of our designated bike trails (see "Trail Feature Chart" for more specific information). The trail passes are good for the calendar year, and can be used on State Trails throughout all of Wisconsin. The fees are as follows:

Annual Wisconsin State Trail Pass : \$10.00

Daily Wisconsin State Trail Pass : \$3.00

Trail Passes can be purchased at most DNR offices, or by self-registering at the trail heads. Patron License or Senior Recreation Card holders can use their license or card as a Trail Pass.

TRAIL ETIQUETTE

Mountain bikers should be alert for and yield to hikers on the trail.

Skiers pass oncoming skiers on the right. Skiers on a downhill slope have the right of way.

WATER

Water pumps are located either at the trail head or along the trail at each of the NH-AL Nature Trails. For other trails you should make sure you bring your own filled water bottles.

GARBAGE

Please take your garbage and recyclables home with you. It's up to all of us to take care of our natural resources and keep the forest clean.

REST ROOMS

There are vault toilets located in the NH-AL picnic areas or campgrounds, but not at the trail heads. A Wisconsin State Vehicle Admission Sticker is required for all picnic areas and campgrounds.

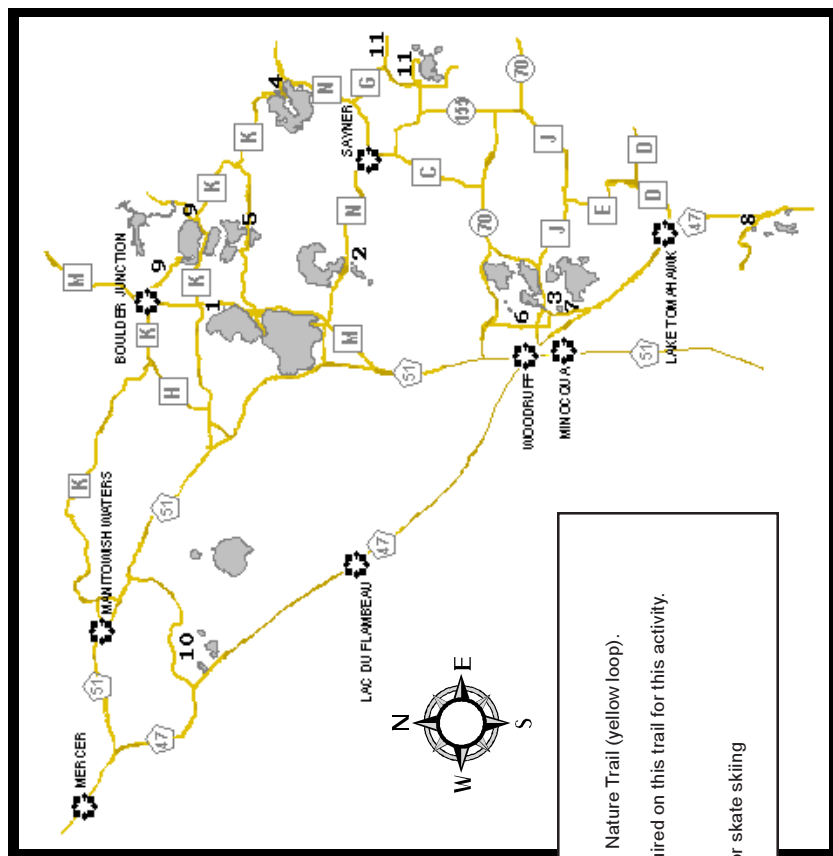
PETS

Pets are welcome in the State Forest, when on a leash and under control. Before deciding whether to bring them, please read the following rules.

- 1) Pets must be on a leash no longer than eight feet at all times.
- 2) Pets are not allowed on beaches, at picnic areas or in buildings. (All of the Crystal Lake Shoreline is designated beach)
- 3) Pets are not allowed on Nature Trails.
- 4) Pets are not allowed on groomed cross-country ski trails.
- 5) Pets can not chase wildlife. (Remember that Trumpeter Swans are protected, and can be very dangerous when they feel threatened)



TRAIL FEATURES



- * = The word "Pet" does not include horses.
- ** = Information in this row does not pertain to Raven Nature Trail (yellow loop).
- *** = Groomed by volunteers
- \$ = Wisconsin State Trail Pass (annual or daily) required on this trail for this activity.
- SSF = Spring, Summer and Fall ONLY
- GT = Groomed and Tracked
- U = Ungroomed
- L = One loop groomed for skate skiing

Map No.	Trail	Length in Miles	Leashed Pets* Allowed	Hiking	Mountain Biking	Cross-Country Skiing	Snow-Shoeing	Winter Shelter Building
1	North Trout Nature Trail	1	NO	Yes	NO	U	U	NO
2	Fallison Nature Trail	4	NO	Yes	NO	U	U	NO
3	Raven Nature Trail	1.5	NO	SSF	NO	\$ GT	NO	NO
4	Star Lake Nature Trail	2.5	NO	Yes	NO	U	U	NO
5	Escanaba	11	SSF	SSF	SSF	\$ GT	NO	Yes
6	Madeline	9.5	SSF	SSF	\$ SSF	\$ GT	NO	Yes
7	Raven**	11	SSF	SSF	SSF	\$ GT	NO	Yes
8	McNaughton	10	SSF	SSF	\$ SSF	\$ GT / L	NO	Yes
9	Lumberjack	12.5	Yes	Yes	\$ Yes	U	U	NO
10	Powell	8.5	Yes	Yes	Yes	U	U	NO
11	Shannon	7	SSF	SSF	SSF	GT***	NO	NO

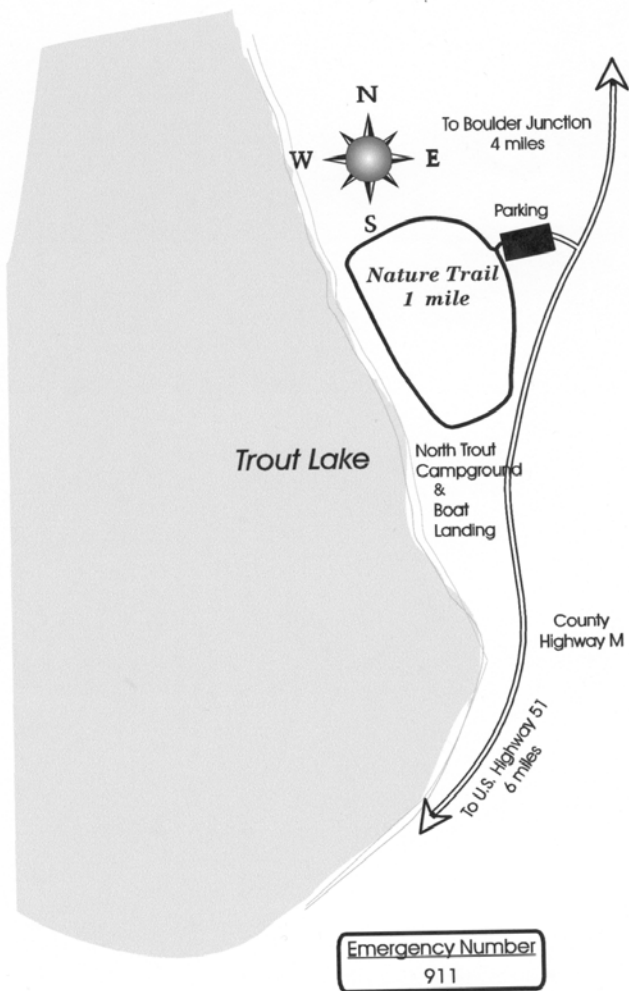
* NORTH * TROUT * NATURE * TRAIL *

The North Trout Nature Trail is our shortest and easiest nature trail to hike. This trail is a 1-mile loop trail that meanders around a mature black spruce-tamarack bog. The trail also winds it's way along the Trout Lake shoreline, offering a beautiful view of the lake. This is a wonderful trail to hike in spring because of the abundance of wildflowers. Watch for the moccasin flower, trailing arbutus, Canada Mayflower, star flower, blueberry, and barren. Strawberry, just to name a few.

Sorry, no pets allowed.



(UNGROOMED)



LOCATION: Located 4 miles south of Boulder Junction or 6 miles north of Hwy 51 on Hwy M.

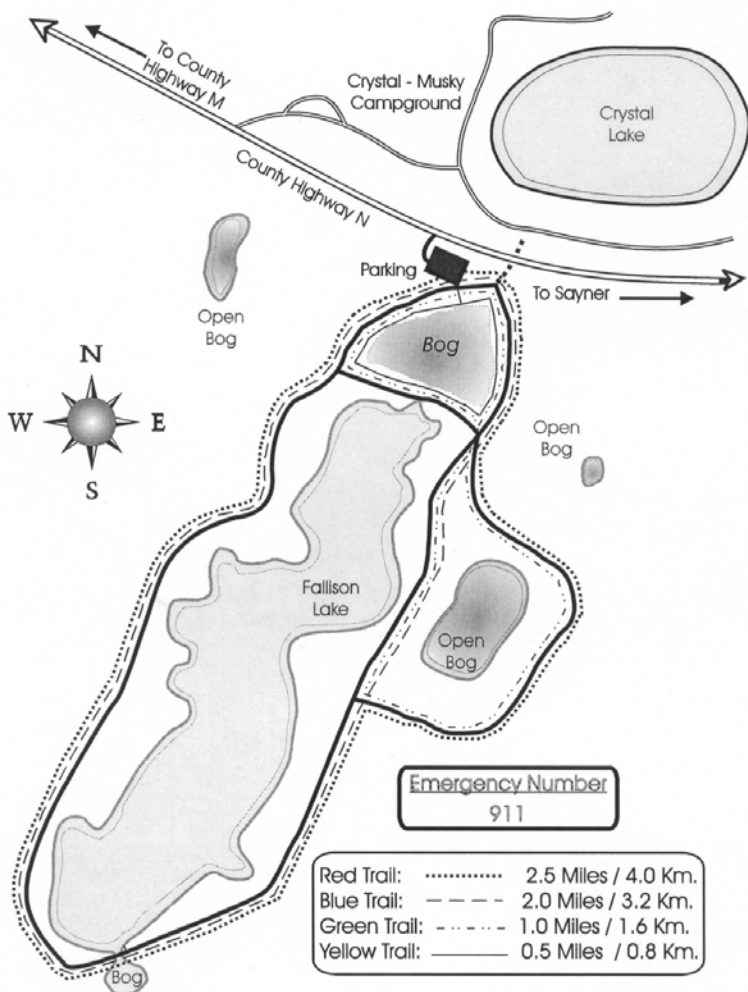
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The Fallison Lake Nature Trail is our longest and most strenuous nature trail. The longest of all the trail loops is 2.5 miles. This trail rolls through a mixed coniferous-deciduous forest of balsam, red pine, white pine, sugar maple, white birch, and large-toothed and trembling aspen. The trail crosses bogs on the southwest and northeast sides and a hemlock glade on the south side. Watch for signs of beaver activity along the trail and along the shore. Loons, osprey, and eagles are often seen on or around Fallison Lake.

Sorry, no pets allowed.



(UNGROOMED)



LOCATION: Take Hwy 51 north out of Woodruff to Hwy M. Turn right on Hwy M and go 2.5 miles to Hwy N. Turn right on Hwy N and go 3.5 miles to the Trailhead.

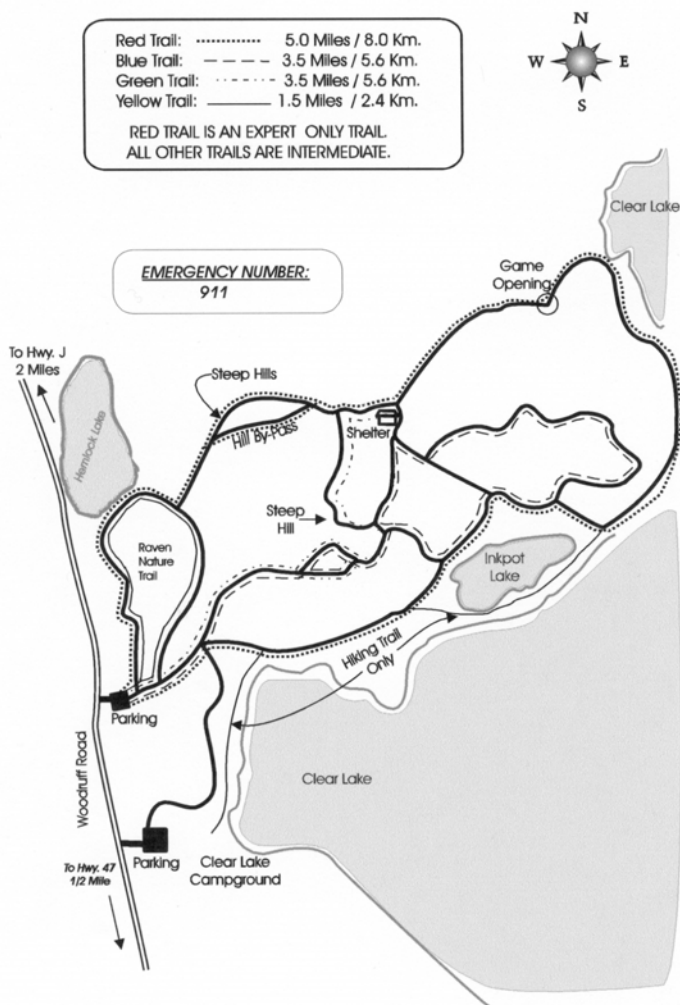
* RAVEN * NATURE * TRAIL *

The Raven Nature Trail is a moderately hilly, heavily wooded trail that is 1.5 miles in length. This trail winds through a large hemlock glade. This a wonderful trail any time of year, however, in spring watch for bog rosemary, bog laurel, Labrador tea, leatherleaf, cotton grass, sundew and pitcher plants blooming and growing in the bog. There are also some wonderful owerling old white pines growing along this trail.

Sorry, no pets allowed.



(GROOMED & TRACKED)



LOCATION: On Hwy 47 go southeast from Woodruff
 3.5 miles. Turn left on Woodruff Road and go .5 miles.

STAR * LAKE * NATURE * TRAIL



The Star Lake Nature Trail is a moderately hilly trail that is slightly over one mile in length. This historical trail winds it's way through what was in the early 1900's a pasture for horses hauling logs from the

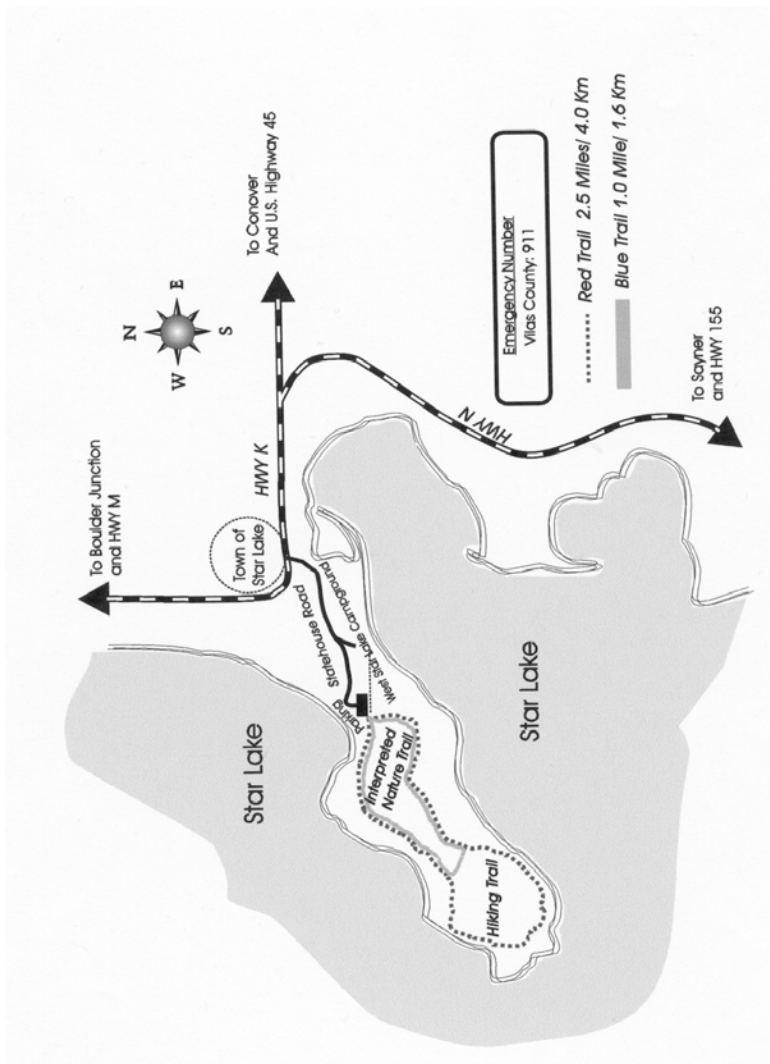
surrounding woods to the Star Lake Mill. The horses and mill are long since gone and the trees have grown back. This trail is also the site the first tree plantings in the State of Wisconsin designed to help the forest grow back. The Red Pine Plantation re-search plot trees that are still on this site were planted as two-year old seedlings in 1913 from seed stock grown at the old Trout Lake Nursery (current site of the Trout Lake Forestry Headquarters building on Hwy M). In summer, this trail is a great place to see blue flag iris, pipsissewa, various *Pyrola* sp, one-flowered wintergreen and indian pipe.

Sorry, no pets allowed.



(UNGROOMED)





LOCATION: Located off of Hwy K between Hwy M and Hwy 45. Turn onto Statehouse Road. When you get to the entrance of the West Star Campground, go straight ahead instead of turning left into the campground.

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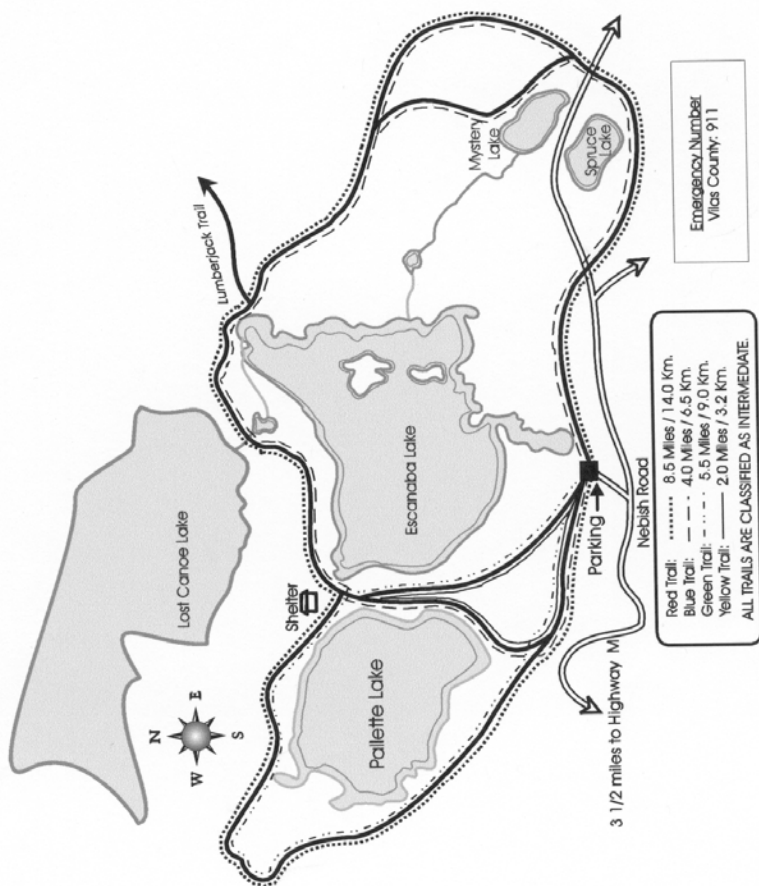
This trail is very hilly, rolling and scenic. It winds around five different lakes, through stands of maple, aspen and balsam. There are a couple fairly steep hills.

Escanaba is groomed and tracked in the winter for cross-country skiing. For skiers, this is an intermediate trail. A shelter with a fire ring is located on the trail.

Leashed pets are allowed on this trail only when there is no snow on the ground.



(GROOMED & TRACKED)



LOCATION: Take Hwy M 4 miles south from Boulder Junction. Then turn left onto Nebish Road and go 3.5 miles to the Trailhead.

* MADELINE * TRAIL *

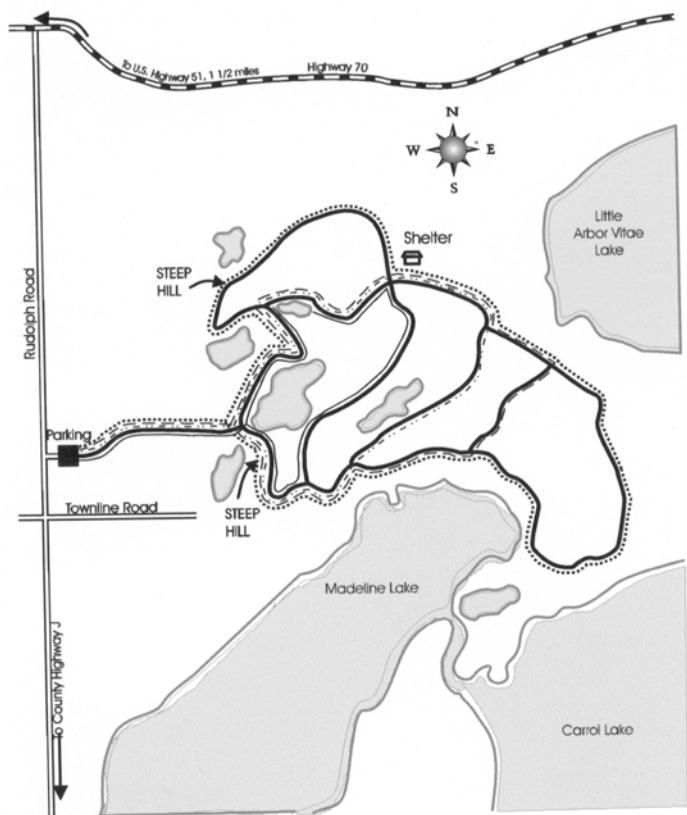
This trail has a variety of scenery as it winds around three lakes and through different types of terrain. It has a few rolling hills. Most of the trail follows old logging roads. The surface is grass and dirt. The effort level is easy to moderate.

Madeline is groomed and tracked in the winter for cross-country skiing. This is an excellent trail for all class of skiers. There is a shelter located on the trail with a fire ring.

Leashed pets are allowed on Madeline only when there is no snow on the ground.



(GROOMED & TRACKED)



Red Trail: 5.5 Miles / 9.0 Km.
 Blue Trail: - - - - 4.5 Miles / 7.2 Km.
 Green Trail: - 3.5 Miles / 5.6 Km.
 Yellow Trail: _____ 3.0 Miles / 4.8 Km.

ALL TRAILS ARE CLASSIFIED AS
 INTERMEDIATE (EXCEPTION - 2 STEEP HILLS).

EMERGENCY NUMBER:

911

LOCATION: On Hwy 47 go southeast from Woodruff 2 miles. Turn left on Hwy J and go 1 mile. Turn left onto Rudolph Road and go 1.75 miles to the Trailhead.

* RAVEN * TRAIL *

The majority of this trail runs through an area logged years ago. The trail winds past both Clear and Inkpot Lake. There are a couple of steep hills. Most of the trail is an intermediate trail. There is also a four mile expert trail. A shelter with a fire ring can be found on the trail.

Leashed Pets are allowed on this trail only when there is no snow on the ground.



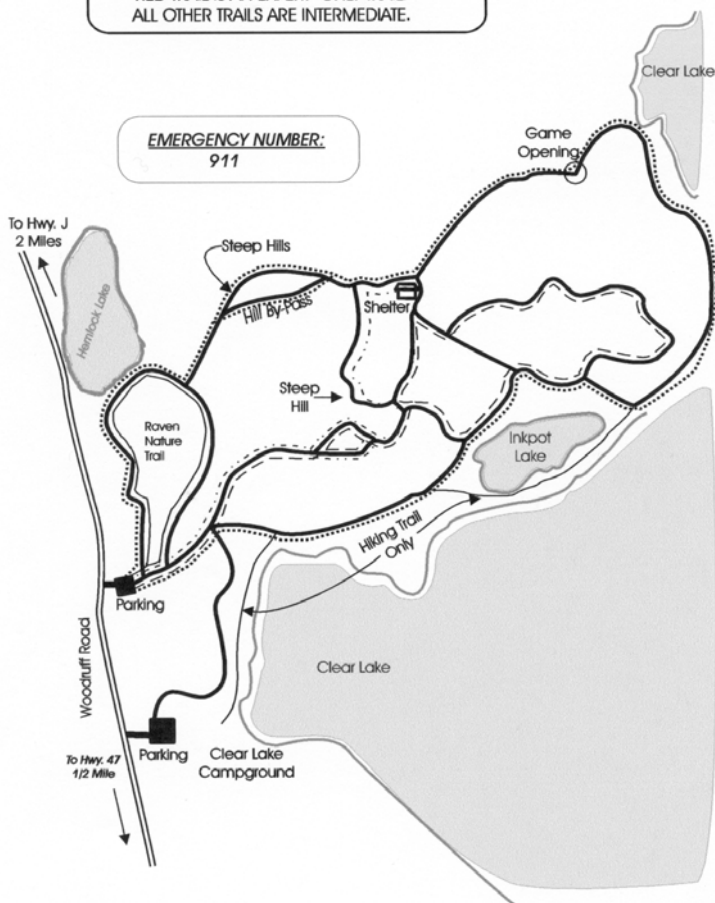
(GROOMED & TRACKED)

Red Trail: 5.0 Miles / 8.0 Km.
 Blue Trail: - - - - 3.5 Miles / 5.6 Km.
 Green Trail: - · - · - 3.5 Miles / 5.6 Km.
 Yellow Trail: ——— 1.5 Miles / 2.4 Km.

RED TRAIL IS AN EXPERT ONLY TRAIL.
 ALL OTHER TRAILS ARE INTERMEDIATE.



EMERGENCY NUMBER:
 911



LOCATION: On Hwy 47 go southeast from Woodruff
 3.5 miles. Turn left on Woodruff Road and go .5 miles.

* MCNAUGHTON * TRAIL *



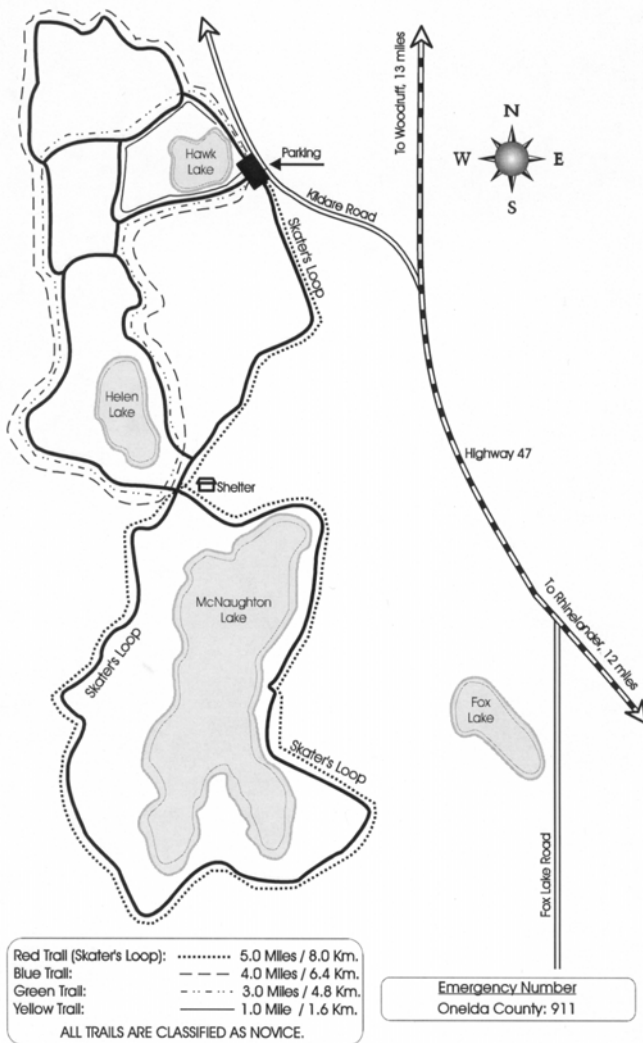
McNaughton Lake Trail follows old logging roads and is gentle with very few steep hills. The surface is grass and dirt.

This is the only trail on which skating is allowed, the skating loop runs around McNaughton Lake. McNaughton is a very scenic trail and excellent for a beginner. The trail winds around three different lakes. There is a shelter with a fire ring on the trail.

Leashed pets are allowed on this trail only when there is no snow on the ground.



(GROOMED & TRACKED)



LOCATION: On Hwy 47 go south from Woodruff 13 miles. Turn right on Kildare Road.

* LUMBERJACK * TRAIL *

The Lumberjack Trail is a very scenic trail winding along the edge of the Manitowish River, the Fishtrap flowage and White Sand Lake. The trail gently rolls through a variety of timber types. The surface is grass, dirt, rocks and sand. The effort is easy to moderate.

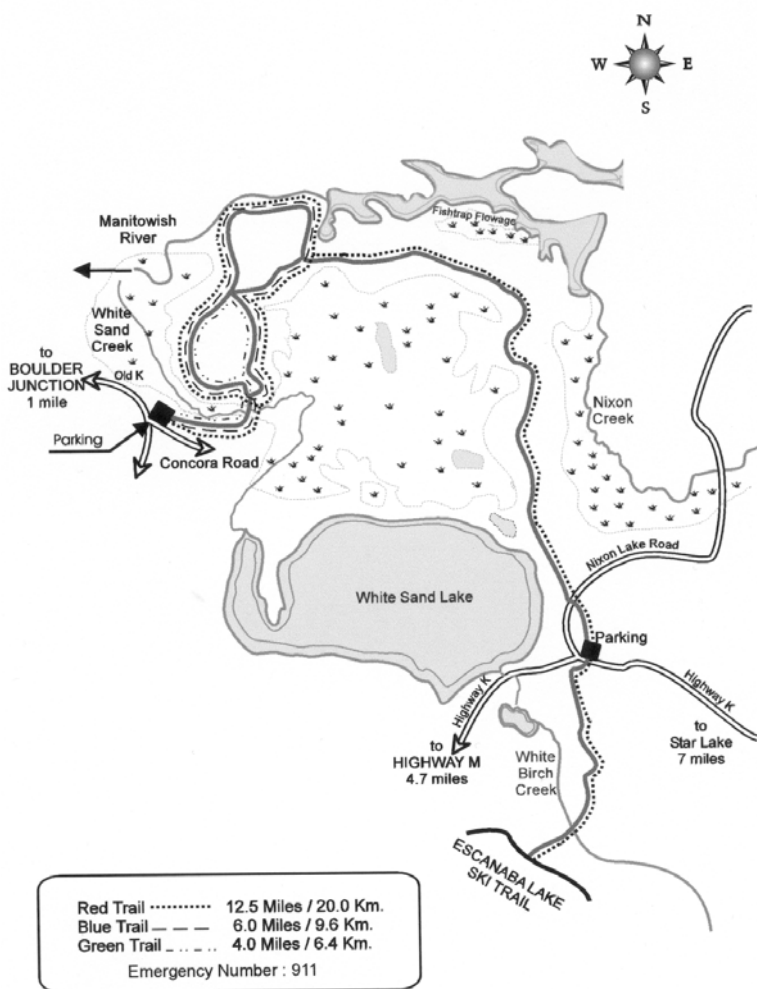
Approximately half of the trail winds through an area that was logged a few years ago. The rest of the trail is through old timber. The trail connects with the Escanaba Trail. Backpack camping is allowed along the Lumberjack, but requires a permit.

Leashed pets are allowed all year long.



(UNGROOMED)





LOCATION: There are two Trailheads on the Lumberjack. For one take "Old K" east from Boulder Junction to Concora Road. To get to the other, go south from Boulder Junction on Hwy M and turn left on Hwy K. Go about 5 miles, just past Nixon Lake Road.

* P O W E L L * T R A I L *

This is an easy trail that runs past Spring Pond and Sherman Lake. This is a good trail for beginners.

Half of the trail winds through an area that was logged years ago. The rest goes through old timber types.

Leashed pets are allowed all year.



(UNGROOMED)



* SHANNON * TRAIL *

The terrain on the Shannon Lake Trail is gently rolling with a variety of timber types. The loop around Shannon Lake is especially scenic.

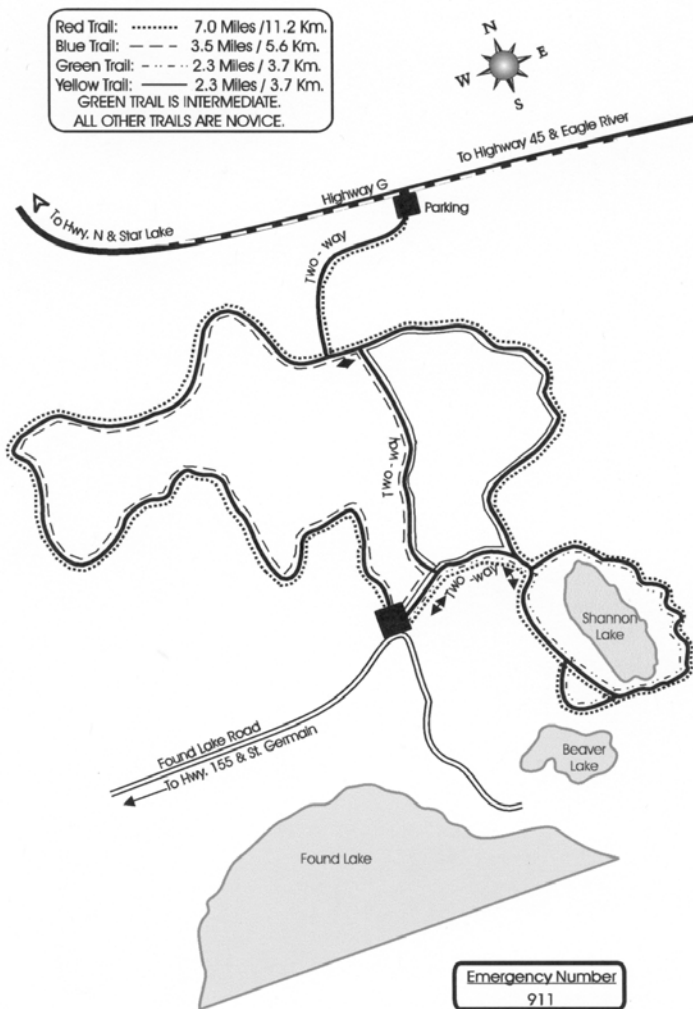
Shannon Trail is groomed by a local volunteer. The green trail is intermediate. The rest is classified as novice. This is a good trail for all skiers.

Approximately half of the trail winds through an area that was logged in 1976 and 2000. The remainder meanders through a variety of northern hardwoods.

Leashed pets are allowed on this trail only when there is no snow on the ground.



(GROOMED & TRACKED)



LOCATION: On Hwy 155 go 2.75 miles north from St. Germain to Lost Lake Drive S. Go north 1 block to Found Lake Road. Go 2 miles on Found Lake Road to the Trail Head.

LAND USE AGREEMENTS

Visitors may come upon trails on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest that are not listed in this guide. These may be trails that are part of various Land Use Agreements and/or leases between private non-profit groups and the Northern Highland American Legion State Forest. Land Use Agreement trails are open to the public, but maintained entirely by those non-profit groups. Usually a request for a donation is made for users in order to help with the costs of trail maintenance.

The following contacts can answer questions about these trails:

❁ **The Boulder Junction Paved Bike Trail**

The Boulder Junction Chamber Of Commerce
at (715) 385-2400 or (800) 466-8759 or www.boulderjct.org
(most of this trail runs on the right of way of county highways)

❁ **Razorback Ridges Ski and Mountain Bike Trails**

Sayner-Star Lake Chamber of Commerce at (715) 542-3789

❁ **North Lakeland Discovery Center Ski, Bike & Hike Trails**

North Lakeland Discovery Center at (715) 543-2085 or
www.discoverycenter.net

❁ **Fort Wilderness Ski and Hike Trails**

Fort Wilderness at (715) 277-2587 or www.fortwilderness.com

❁ **North Lakeland Elementary School Ski Trail**

Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce at (715) 543-8488

SAFETY



Be aware that trails may vary in difficulty. Trails can become slippery when wet or covered by leaves or pine needles, or where there is loose gravel.



Keep your bike under full control at all times. Keep at least two bike lengths between riders and warn others when passing. Pull off the trail to view wildlife, flowers, or scenic views. Be cautious in areas with loose gravel or sand, wet leaves, or other loose material.



Don't ski beyond your abilities. Ski on trails whose slopes are gentle enough that you can control your speed going downhill. Always follow the proper direction on one-way trails. Leave space between you and other skiers and alert others when passing. Not all trails are groomed, and those that are groomed can't always be groomed regularly. The quality of the groomed trails varies, depending on available equipment. Even the best groomed trails can be destroyed quickly by heavy traffic or weather.

Please keep your pets on a leash at all times.

BE SAFE AND ENJOY YOUR VISIT !

Timber Management on the State Forest:

Within the NH-AL Forest you may encounter forest management activities. This forest has an active timber harvest program, as well as tree planting, insect monitoring and fire control programs. Our forest management program involves sustaining the forest resource; providing products and economic benefits while maintaining the capability of providing forest benefits for the future.

Your State Foresters consider much more than timber values when establishing a timber sale. On the State Forest recreation, wildlife habitat, water quality, endangered or threatened plants and animals as well as aesthetic impacts are drafted into the planning of forest management. Using the tools of aerial photographs, soil and wetland maps, and consulting with other managers we can maintain the diverse habitat that make this forest a beautiful place to visit, as well as an important resource for wildlife of all kinds. Here is a picture of a group of foresters planning a timber sale.



Historically, northern Wisconsin was cut over between the late 1800's and 1930's. Much of the forest burned after the harvests and old, charred remains can be found to this day. In 1911, Wisconsin's first state forester came to Vilas, Oneida and Iron Counties, and recommended parcels of cut and burned over lands to be purchased by the State Legislature. A 1924 legislative proposal expanded the state's authority to acquire land, resulting in the purchase of 92,000 acres. This property then, was designated as the first state forest in 1925 and officially named the Northern Highland State Forest. The American Legion State Forest was created in 1929 and in 1968 the two forests became one unit, the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest. Since the nation's first experiments in reforestation and fire control took place here, foresters had a head start in reclaiming the forest's beauty and protecting its resources. Today the State Forest is 226,000 acres in size, the largest state forest in Wisconsin.

A tree nursery was established at Trout Lake in 1911 to reestablish the pinery in the north. By 1933 during the Civilian Conservation Corps era, peak production of over 11 million tree seedlings came from the Trout Lake tree nursery. Many seedlings from the Trout Lake nursery restocked popular recreation destinations today across much of northern Wisconsin. The nursery was phased out in 1968 but other tree nurseries in the state still provide seedlings for both public and private lands.



A logging contractor loads red pine pulpwood from a selective cut to haul to the mill.

Forest Management on the Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest contributes to many benefits in our lives; from the essential products we use each day, the building supplies for our homes, offices and schools as well as the notable recreational opportunities we have at our doorstep. As your State Foresters, we are proud to provide these opportunities for both the economic and recreational benefits, yet maintain the unique treasures on this forest for generations to come.



This publication is available upon request in alternate formats for visually impaired persons. Please contact Kim Krawczyk at (715) 385-2704 to request alternate format.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to: Equal Opportunity Office, U.S. Department of Interior, Washington D.C. 20240



Division of Forestry



PUB-FR-200 2002